

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4158

AN ACT

To confirm full ownership rights for certain United States astronauts to artifacts from the astronauts' space missions.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. DEFINITION OF ARTIFACT.**

2 For purposes of this Act, the term “artifact” means,
3 with respect to an astronaut described in section 2(a), any
4 expendable item utilized in missions for the Mercury,
5 Gemini, or Apollo programs through the completion of the
6 Apollo-Soyuz Test Project not expressly required to be re-
7 turned to the National Aeronautics and Space Administra-
8 tion at the completion of the mission and other expend-
9 able, disposable, or personal-use items utilized by such as-
10 tronaut during participation in any such program. The
11 term includes personal logs, checklists, flight manuals,
12 prototype and proof test articles used in training, and dis-
13 posable flight hardware salvaged from jettisoned lunar
14 modules. The term does not include lunar rocks and other
15 lunar material.

16 **SEC. 2. FULL OWNERSHIP OF ARTIFACTS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—A United States astronaut who
18 participated in any of the Mercury, Gemini, or Apollo pro-
19 grams through the completion of the Apollo-Soyuz Test
20 Project, who received an artifact during his participation
21 in any such program, shall have full ownership of and
22 clear title to such artifact.

23 (b) NO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CLAIM.—The Fed-
24 eral Government shall have no claim or right to ownership,
25 control, or use of any artifact in possession of an astro-
26 naut as described in subsection (a) or any such artifact

- 1 that was subsequently transferred, sold, or assigned to a
- 2 third party by an astronaut described in subsection (a).

Passed the House of Representatives September 19,
2012.

Attest:

Clerk.

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